ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

AUTHORISING AN ADDITIONAL COMPUTER PROGRAM MODULE FOR USE WITH A CORE COMPUTER PROGRAM

A core computer program 2, such as an anti-virus engine, operates with a plurality of computer program modules 4, 6. These computer program modules are signed with public key infrastructure signatures to authorise them before they start to be used by the core computer program 2. A signature associated with both the core computer program and another signature, such as a user signature, are both looked for by the core computer program 2 in order to authorise use of a computer program module. In some embodiments, the presence of one of the signatures may be sufficient, whereas in others both signatures may be required. Providers of computer program modules may be charged for the tools for generating those modules to interact with the core computer program and/or for the tools for applying appropriate signatures to the modules they create.

[Figure 1]